

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-14

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: MORE EMERGENCY COURT-MARTIAL SENTENCES REDUCED

REF: A. SEOUL 5844, B. SEOUL 6352

1. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ON SEPT 25 ANNOUNCED APPELLATE COURT ACTION ON 34 MORE CASES, PRIMARILY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, REDUCING SENTENCES IN ALL BUT THREE CASES. 31 DEFENDANTS RECEIVED EITHER TWO OR THREE-YEAR REDUCTION IN OVERALL SENTENCES WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE DEFENDANT WHOSE SENTENCE WAS SUSPENDED.

2. THREE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHOSE SENTENCES WERE NOT REDUCED WERE: SO CHANG-SOK FROM YONSEI, KWON CHIN-KWON FROM SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND KIM CHAE-KYU FROM PUSAN UNIVERSITY. THIRTEEN STUDENTS WHOSE SENTENCES WERE REDUCED ARE FROM CHONNAM UNIVERSITY; SIX FROM KYONGBUK; AND OTHERS REPRESENT KOREA AND PUSAN UNIVERSITIES; METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, HANKUK PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, AND KUKMIN
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COLLEGE. ONE OF DEFENDANTS WAS SCHOOL TEACHER.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS SURFACING A PATTERN IN WHICH APPELLATE COURTS ARE REDUCING STUDENT SENTENCES BY TWO-FOUR YEARS. IN THEMSELVES THESE REDUCTIONS DO NOT APPEAR SUFFICIENT TO STILL CHRISTIAN/STUDENT PRESSURES FOR CLEMENCY. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WISHES APPELLATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS GESTURE OF SOME MODERATION ON ITS PART.
ERICSON

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